

# TEAM SPOTLIGHT OHIO LAWMEN

Editorial and photos submitted by Ross Contipelli



## THE BEST OF THE BEST

Several years ago Independence, Ohio police officer Brad Borowy, while playing law-enforcement softball for the CPPA Lawmen (Cleveland Police Patrolmen's Association), noticed that while all of the Ohio law enforcement softball teams seemed to have had their fair share of talent, each of these teams were repeatedly being defeated by the bigger city teams coming from states such as New York, Florida, Michigan, Texas and Missouri.

After years of time-consuming and expensive trips all over the country only to return each time with another loss, it was time that something be done. In 1999, Brad started reaching out to key players and although there was some resistance due to team loyalty, it was later learned that the same frustration was shared by many of these players.

Brad was able to recruit enough of his favorites to create the Ohio Lawmen, which was a state-wide "best of the best" consisting of players from the greater Cleveland, Columbus and Cincinnati areas. The Ohio Lawmen's 2010 team consists of men from these areas and also from Sandusky, Butler and Hamilton Counties and also eastern Indiana.

Early team achievements included championships in the 1999 and 2000 Ohio Police & Fire Olympics, 2000 Cincinnati Law Enforcement Tournament, 2001 Officer Steve Wouters Memorial Tournament in Sterling Heights and the 2001 Nashville Police Tournament. While these championships indicated success, it wasn't enough for the Lawmen, so recruiting continued and the team continued to improve.

In 2004, everything started to come together for the team, winning the International Police and Fire games in Las Vegas. In 2005 when police-softball.com created the World Series of Police Softball, the Ohio

Lawmen were the champions of the inaugural tournament and in subsequent years were in the finals three out of four years, taking second place in 2006, top ten in 2007, top five in 2008 and second place again in 2009. These are impressive rankings due to the number and quality of the teams who participate.

The Ohio Lawmen believe that their team is successful not only because of talent, but because of chemistry. "There are some players out there that have amazing talent, but who we would never consider having on our team. We feel that all of our men are of high moral standard and are family guys who are able to check their ego at the dugout," says Ross Contipelli, who joined the team in 2004 after having played for Cleveland Metro. Ross is a lifelong friend of Brad's and was one of Brad's first telephone calls when he put the team together, but Ross was one of the resistant players who wanted to stay with his city team. He is now Assistant Manager working closely with Brad to keep the team on track.

## CHARITIES

Although the team was put together to win, the fact that these men have hearts of gold has prompted the team to use their notoriety to benefit others. Because of this, the team has established itself at 501(C)(3) charitable organization and throughout the years the team has hosted fundraisers for organizations including Ohio C.O.P.S.



### Cleveland Clinic Children's Hospital Oncology Center event

(Concerns of Police Survivors), NY Widows and Orphans Fund, The Greater Cleveland Police Scholarship Fund, Cleveland Clinic Children's Hospital Oncology Center, to families of terminally ill children, to New Orleans officers and families that were victimized by hurricane Katrina, and to the families of Colerain Township Fire Captain Robin Broxterman and Firefighter Brian Schira. The team feels it's important to give back and the men take great pride in their donations to these causes.

## 2010 OHIO LAW MEN ROSTER

The team roster for 2010 includes the addition of two powerhouse players from Indiana, a move that is possible due to the implementation of the adjacent state rule. The team is welcoming back former player Bobby McGhee as DH and welcoming outfielder Henry "Butch" Castor, both [policessoftball.com](http://policessoftball.com) All-Stars. Unfortunately, these two additions must come at the cost of losing Michigan's Gerry Schornack, as the adjacent state rule only allows a two-state maximum. The team is saddened to lose a quality player like Gerry and expresses their gratitude for his loyalty to the team.

Returning players include In-fielder Dave Adams of State of Ohio Corrections, Manager Brad Borowy of the Independence Police Department, Assistant Coach Tom Borowy- retired, Out-fielder Ryan Byrne of the Cuyahoga County Sheriff's Department, First Baseman Ron Collins of the Lucas County Sheriff's Department, First Baseman Ross Contipelli of the Cuyahoga Heights Police Department, Out-fielder Sean Francis of the Bedford Police Department, Catcher Calvin Johnson-retired from the Cincinnati Police Department, Third Baseman Troy Keegan of the Independence Police Department, Out-fielder Brian Key of the Cincinnati Police Department, Third Baseman Ralph King of the Fairfield Police Department, Short-Stop Rob Menke of the Butler County Probation Department, Pitcher Jake Negray of the Cleveland Police Probation, Second Baseman Bobby Reginelli a federal agent, Out-fielder Higinio Rivera of the Cleveland Police Department, In-fielder Eddie Robinson of the Cleveland Police Department and Catcher Craig Singleton of the Fairfield Police Department.

## KEY PLAYERS

### Brad Borowy, Manager

Brad is the man behind the development of this organization and is a natural-born leader. From his awe-inspiring pregame



Brad Borowy

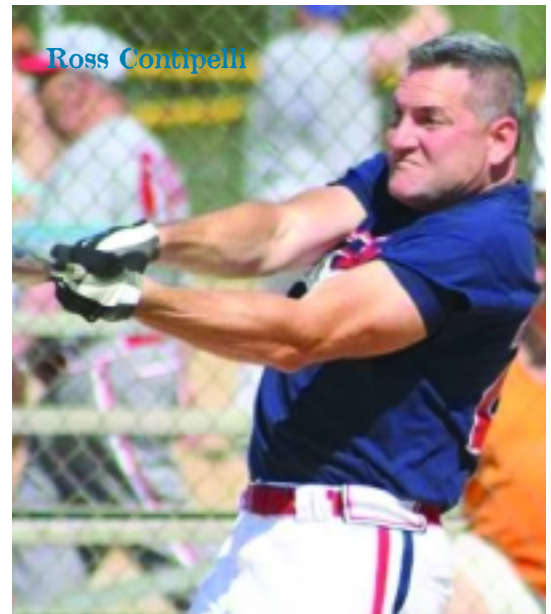
speeches to his "in your face" personality, Brad is always in the middle of the mix. The Ohio Lawmen would never have achieved what they have without his leadership and dedication. As a twenty-year veteran officer for the Independence, Ohio police department, Brad is dedicated to serving his community. Brad and his wife Sue have been married for eighteen years and raise their two children in Valley View, Ohio, where he is an elected councilman.

### Ross Contipelli, Assistant Manager, First Baseman

Ross joined the Ohio Lawmen in 2004 and helped the team win their first International Police Olympics in Las Vegas, Nevada that same year.

Ross was the first police officer in Ohio to have won a Men's Major World Title and a Police World Title. Ross was elected to the first ever police All-Star game by his teammates in 2005 and in 2009 was the first Ohio Lawman to be inducted into the Police Softball Hall of Fame.

Ross brings a refuse-to-lose attitude to the team with his competitive nature and can play any infield position. Ross is a twenty-five year police veteran who worked SWAT for fifteen years and is a former tactical commander. He is now back in day shift patrol with the Cuyahoga Heights, Ohio police department and also serves as a juvenile detective. Ross has a daughter at Ohio State University and a son in high school.



Ross Contipelli

# Team Spotlight: Ohio Lawmen



## Rob Menke

Rob Menke is the face of the Ohio Lawman. He's the most recognized defensive player in the country and the team is honored to have him. Rob was on the 2006 All-Star team and has obtained more overall achievements and awards than anyone on the team with numerous MVP titles. In 2009 Rob was named East Coast Defensive Player of Year by policesoftball.com and is a consistent .700-.800 hitter with an unmatched golden glove. Rob works as a probation officer in the Greater Cincinnati area.

## Bryan Key

Bryan "BK" Key is one of the best all-around softball players you will ever see on the Police circuit or any other. BK is a 5-tool player and knows how to use every one of them with style. BK is always at the top of the board in average and has some of the most impressive opposite-field power you will ever see. BK is a veteran Cincinnati police officer and is married to Donna Key, who is also a Cincinnati police officer.

## Sean Francis

Sean "Tunnel Rat" Francis is one of the original Ohio Lawmen players. He's been a mainstay in the outfield because of his speed and his great arm and has been elected to numerous all-tournament teams. Sean is a patrol officer in Bedford, Ohio and he and his wife Jennifer have four young children.



Rob Menke

## Jake Negray

Jake is the starting pitcher for the Ohio Lawmen and joined the team in 2005. Jake pitched nearly every inning in the team's 2005 championship run. Jake is a solid .600-.700 hitter who



Jake Negray

hits from the left side and can put the ball anywhere on the field. Jake is the deputy chief of probation for the City of Cleveland. Jake is also a renowned high school basketball referee in the greater Cleveland area.



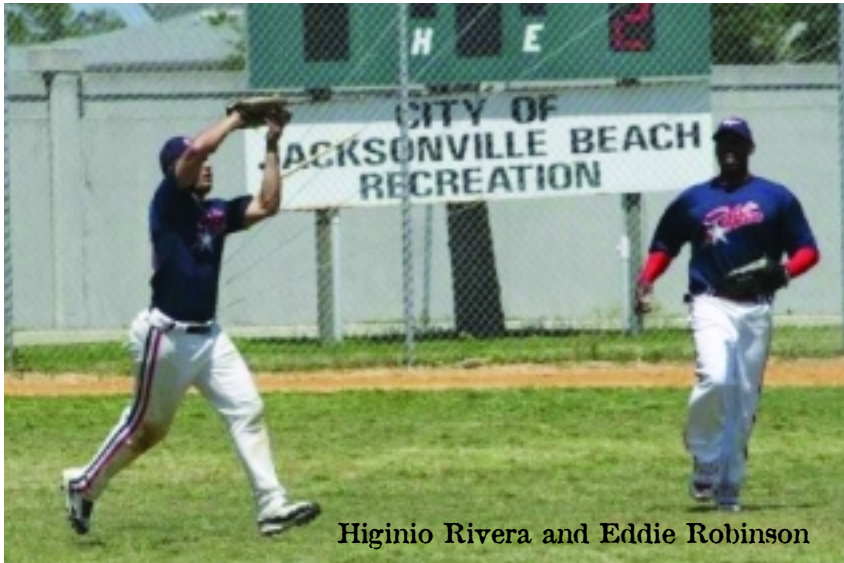
Sean Francis



Craig Singleton

## Craig Singleton

Craig is a left-handed clean-up hitter and is known for his homerun-hitting ability. Craig joined the Ohio Lawmen in 2004 but has been playing competitive softball for seventeen years and has won numerous All-tournament awards. Craig has been a police officer with the Fairfield, Ohio police department since 1999 and he and his wife Christi have four young sons.



Higinio Rivera and Eddie Robinson

## Achievements

### TOURNAMENT CHAMPIONSHIPS

- Ohio Police & Fire Olympic Champions: 1999, 2000, 02, 03, 04, 05, 06, 07
- Cincinnati Law Enforcement Tournament Champions 2000
- Officer Steve Wouters Memorial Tournament Sterling Hts. MI Champions 2001
- Nashville Police Tournament Nashville TN Champions 2001
- Virginia Beach Police Memorial Tournament Champions 2003
- Officer Bob Clark Memorial Tournament Cleveland OH Champions 2003
- International Police and Fire Games Las Vegas NV Champions 2004
- Police World Series Cathedral City CA WORLD CHAMPIONS 2005
- Buckeye Battle of the Badges Tournament Cincinnati OH CHAMPIONS 2007

### HONORABLE MENTION

- Dayton National Police Tournament Dayton OH 3rd Place 2002, 3rd 2006
- Nevada Police and Fire Games Las Vegas NV 4th Place 2003
- Houston Officer Down Tournament Houston TX 4th Place 2003
- Nevada Police & Fire Games Las Vegas NV 4th 2004, 3rd 2005
- Rick Hall Police Memorial Jacksonville FL 3rd Place 2005, 3rd 2006, 2nd 2007, 3rd 2008, 2nd 2009
- Police World Series Cathedral City CA 2nd Place 2006, 5th 2008, 2nd 2009
- Virginia Beach Police Memorial Tournament 2nd Place 2008, 4th 2009
- Bring Ur Real Skilz West Covina, CA 5th Place 2009

## 2010 Schedule

National tournaments in 2010 include the West Palm Beach Bacon Ball in April, the 26th Annual Virginia Beach Tournament in May, the Minnesota Bacon Ball in June, the 39th Annual Dayton National Police Softball Championship in July, the Wouters/Sawyers Memorial Tournament in August, the Buckeye Battle of the Badges – Provided Bat Tournament in September and the PoliceSoftball.com World Series in October.

## Sponsors

The Ohio Lawmen would like to thank their past and present sponsors including Anchor Tool & Die of Cleveland, Ohio; Bashein & Bashein, LPA of Cleveland, Ohio, Minute Men Staffing Services of Cleveland, Ohio; Tom Ganley of The Ganley Auto Group of Cleveland, Ohio.

The team is in need of a strong 2010 sponsor for this upcoming season and would welcome the opportunity to speak with any sponsor who may be interested. The team is visible at [www.leaguelineup.com/theohiolawmen](http://www.leaguelineup.com/theohiolawmen) and on Facebook. Inquiries may be made to Ross Contipelli at [ra.contipelli@cuyahogaheights.com](mailto:ra.contipelli@cuyahogaheights.com).

The Ohio Lawmen would also like to thank [policesoftball.com](http://policesoftball.com) for its continuous support in Law Enforcement Softball and for its charitable contributions.

# BATWARS 2010

slowpitch  
fastpitch  
baseball

we got your game  
the original  
coast to coast  
the one and only  
[www.batwars.com](http://www.batwars.com)

reality brought to you by:

# Eastbay

SOFTBALL  
MAGAZINE

BASEBALL  
THE MAGAZINE

and our fine partners  
in the industry...